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[IN/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
(US). **KEEGAN, Patrick J.** [US/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

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(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.**; c/o **ROBERT J. KRAUS**, P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

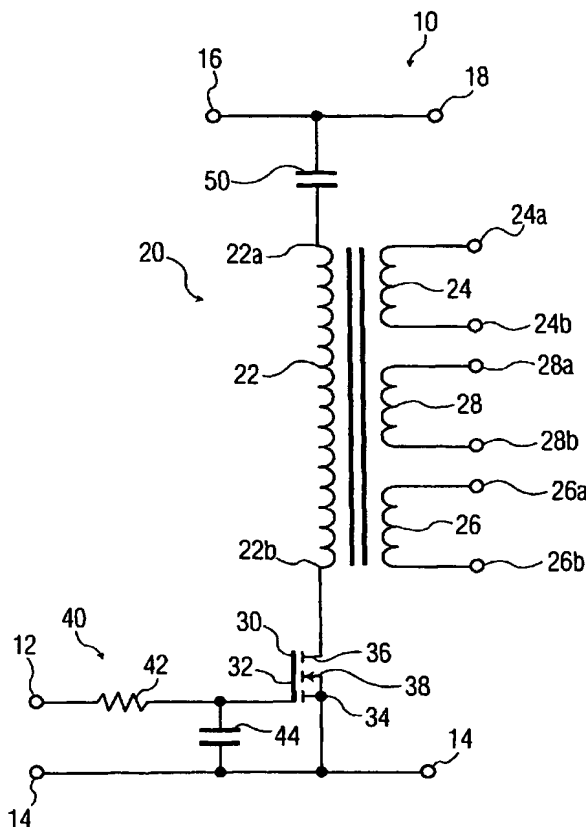
(72) Inventors; and

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(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **VENKAT, Rama**

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(54) Title: FILAMENT CUTOUT CIRCUIT



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a filament cutout circuit for a fluorescent lamp (60). The filament cutout circuit includes a filament transformer (20) with a primary winding (22) and at least one secondary winding (24, 26, 28), and a cutout transistor (30) serially connected to the primary winding (22). The secondary winding (24, 26, 28) provides a filament voltage to a filament (62, 64) in the fluorescent lamp (60). A filament control input (12) turns on the cutout transistor (30) for a predetermined time period to preheat the filament (62, 64).



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